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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RECD DEPT. OF STATE DEC 29 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 DIV. COM. & REC

No. 8 Tirana, December 10, 1933.

Confidential.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DEC 29 33
JAN 5 1934
DIVISION OF
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Project of a Treaty of Friendship between Albania and Turkey.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
A-C/C
JAN 8 1934
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE

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JAN 8 1934

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
JAN 2 - 1934
DIVISION OF
NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

TREATY DIVISION
JAN 15 1934
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that a close intimate of Mr. Mehmed Konitza, who is in Yugoslavia as head of the Albanian delegation charged with the negotiation of the new Treaty of Commerce between the two countries, a few days ago discussed with Tewfik Rushtu Bey, the Turkish Foreign Minister who is in Belgrade in connection with the Turco-Yugoslavian Pact of Friendship, Non-Aggression and Arbitration the project of a Treaty of Friendship between Albania and Turkey similar to the Greco-Turkish agreement. Mr. Konitza has given my

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informant

informant to understand that agreement was reached between them in principle, and that Tewfik Bey expressed a desire to proceed with the Treaty at once, but that Konitza considered it wiser to postpone it till Albania had negotiated such a Pact with Greece, her nearer neighbor.

The Yugoslavian Chargé d'Affaires, however, assures me that Tewfik Bey in fact replied, "The idea is attractive, but perhaps it will be better to wait awhile."

The latter version, no doubt, is the correct one. In this connection Sir Robert Hodgson, the British Minister here, tells me that early in October last Fuad Aslani, Albanian Chargé d'Affaires in London, visited Geneva, where he sounded Tsaldaris, the Greek Prime Minister on the same subject, and that Tsaldaris' answer was to the effect that in view of Albania's alliance with Italy, Turkey would be loath to take any step in that direction without knowing in advance what the latter's attitude would be. From still another source I am informed that at about the same time the matter was broached at Ankara, with a like result.

Respectfully yours,

Post Wheeler

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and Istanbul.

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DEC

768.7512 Non-aggression

DOCUMENT FILE

NOTE

767.7511/2

SEE 875.51/208 FOR #00023

FROM Albania (Wheeler) DATED Jan.6, 1934

TO NAME 1—1127 ...

REGARDING:

Treaty of Friendship between Albania and ~~Italy~~ Turkey may become possible as the breech between Albania and Italy widens.

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No. 00023 Tirana, January 6, 1934.

Confidential.

SUBJECT: Reported Cancellation by Italy of the Italo-Albanian Loan.

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The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Today I have had the honor to telegraph you (my telegram No. 1 of January 6, 1934) with reference to my confidential despatch No. 17 of December 23, last, concerning the reported cancellation of the Italo-Albanian Loan, that information now received from Rome makes it clear that the Declaration of the Italian Government, in the Chamber of Deputies, on December 11, was intended to refer only to the original Decree Law (No. 1068 of July 21, 1931, published in the official Gazzetta of September 7, 1931) giving effect to the then new financial accord, between the two countries.

That,

That, being a Decree-Law, was subject to the provision that requires its enactment by legislative process within two years following its official publication. Notwithstanding the fact that the bill of enactment was drafted, and put in the order of the day, it appears never to have been brought up for discussion or passage, and the Decree-Law, therefore, on September 7, 1935, automatically lapsed. An identic Decree-Law was issued next day to take its place and a bill prepared for its enactment, which like its predecessor, has lain since that date undebated and unpassed.

The Declaration made in the Chamber at Rome on December 11, was -- not unnaturally, it seems -- construed not only by Italian newspapers, but by such organs as the Paris Temps (see its leader of December 27) as referring to the law now in force, and hence as announcing a virtual cancellation of the Italo-Albanian Loan of 1931. It was generally accepted here in that sense. No official notice of the lapse of the original Decree-Law was communicated by the Government of Italy to this Government, and as the Declaration at this time was no part of a regular procedure, the Foreign Office appears itself to have been uncertain of its implication.

My colleagues here, for the most part, count it an Italian ballon d'essai calculated to give rise to the belief that the disagreement between the two Governments has produced an open rupture in their financial relations, suggesting that Italy is contemplating a cancellation in fact, and desires to ascertain probable reactions in other Capitals

as regards a new policy and an altered program.

As the Department will recall, the Italo-Albanian Bank and Loan Agreement of 1925, envisages a possible control of Albanian receipts from Customs, and from the salt, cigarette-paper, and match monopolies. But speculation here has settled into a conviction that Italy could not, at the present juncture, afford to take a step of such significance. Especially would this seem to be true in the light of her failure to carry out on her part the terms of Article 5 of the Pact of Friendship and Security of 1926, which provides for a special convention "which shall be concluded as soon as possible", whose object shall be the establishment of the procedure for the peaceful settlement of "the questions which might cause friction and which might not be capable of solution through ordinary diplomatic channels". It is assumed that Italy's course will be, to all intents and purposes, a siege-operation, looking to an ultimate reduction of the fortress through lack of provisions, and for this this Government appears to be prepared.

It will imply more than economy -- it will entail downright privation. But the general sentiment, among the office-holding class which must suffer most, is that, if no middle ground is to be found between real independence and political subservience, it is well worth it.

Meanwhile negotiations for the prospective Economic Pact with Czechoslovakia are going forward (see my despatch No. 15 of December 20, 1933) and there are hopes that as

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the breach between this country and Italy widens a Treaty of Friendship may become possible with Turkey.

Further shrinkage in public salaries seems to be demanded, and a reduction in the Army probably cannot be long delayed. The latter will be a distinct advantage to the Government, since it will reduce the number of Italian officers (at present ninety-odd) and compel the proper efficiency of the gendarmerie, which is the logical defence against internal disorders.

Respectfully yours,

Post Wheeler

Copy to Rome.

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A true copy of the signed original

Central File: Decimal File 767.7511, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Turkey And Albania, War. Peace. Friendship. Alliance. Non-Aggression., December 10, 1933 - January 6, 1934. December 10, 1933 - January 6, 1934. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111394297%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.